

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/06/13 : CIA-RDP69B00041R001600030023-4

ORIG

UNIT: OSA/Security

EXT: 6433

DATE: 24 January 1968

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OXCAR BLACK SHIELD

OR THE [ ] PLS PASS TO AMB PORTER. STATE CONCURS.

1. HIGHEST POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN MAY 1967 DIRECTED THE

25X1A

DEPLOYMENT TO KADENA AB, OKINAWA, OF THREE A-12 HIGH ALTITUDE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT TO OBTAIN PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE OF CERTAIN PRIORITY TARGETS IN NORTH VIETNAM. IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THEY BE USED OVER MAINLAND CHINA. APPROVAL HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED TO UTILIZE A-12 AIRCRAFT OVER NORTH KOREA.

2. THE A-12 (OXCAR PROGRAM) WAS INITIALLY CONCEIVED AS A FOLLOW-ON TO THE U-2 AND IS A PROTOTYPE OF THE A-11 (YF-12A) AND SR-71 WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE

25X1A A-12 REMAINS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED (TS). IT IS CAPABLE OF FLYING AT

[ ] IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE TO HOSTILE AIR DEFENSES.

3. THE CLASSIFIED CODE NAME FOR THIS OPERATION IS "BLACK SHIELD" AND ALL CABLES AND CORRESPONDENCE PERTAINING TO THE OPERATION WILL BE SO SLUGGED AND WILL BE PASSED ONLY THROUGH

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AUTHORIZED PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS. OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE A-12 DETACHMENT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CIA WITH LOGISTIC AND HOUSEKEEPING SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE AIR FORCE. PILOTS ARE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF CIA. ALL OPERATIONAL OVERFLIGHT BY THE A-12 WILL BE APPROVED, PLANNED, DIRECTED AND CONTROLLED FROM WASHINGTON, D. C. THE A-12 DETACHMENT HAS BEEN IN PLACE AND OPERATIONAL SINCE MAY 1967. ON OPERATIONAL OVERFLIGHTS THE BLACK SHIELD AIRCRAFT WILL CARRY NO MARKINGS OTHER THAN TAIL NUMBER.

4. POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES:

A. PRESENCE OF OXCART AT KADENA

IN THE EVENT OF A FORMAL (I.E., PRESS OR QUASI-OFFICIAL) INQUIRY AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE VEHICLES AT OKINAWA OR THE NATURE OF THE MISSION, THE KADENA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER WILL STATE THAT THEY ARE EXPERIMENTAL TEST BED VERSIONS OF THE YF-12A AND SR-71 FAMILY WHICH ARE AT OKINAWA TO UNDERGO FIELD TESTS. HE WILL FURTHER STATE, IF NECESSARY, THAT ANY ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES WILL HAVE TO BE

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ANSWERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE OTHER THAN THAT STATED ABOVE NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED AT OKINAWA REGARDING THE MISSION. THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, IF QUERIED, WILL VERIFY THE INFORMATION RELEASED BY THE PIO, KADENA WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT OR DETAILS.

B. PROTEST WITHOUT INCIDENT

1. SHOULD A SUCCESSFUL OVERFLIGHT EVOLVE A PROTEST OR PUBLIC DENUNCIATION BY THE OPPOSITION, THE AIRCRAFT BEING DESCRIBED AS AN SR-71/YF-12A OR MACH 3 TYPE, ALL PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD WILL DISCLAIM ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE OVERFLIGHT. SUCH DISCLAIMER WILL NOT BE VOLUNTEERED BUT WILL BE OFFERED ONLY IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUERY. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS PROCEDURE IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE IN THE CASE OF QUERIES DIRECTED TO U.S. AMBASSADORS. THEY WILL NEITHER DISCLAIM NOR ACKNOWLEDGE AWARENESS OF ANY OVERFLIGHT AND REFER SUCH QUERIES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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2. IF QUERIES ARE DIRECTED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, D. C., THE INITIAL RESPONSE WILL BE "NO COMMENT." AFTER REVIEWING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SITUATION DESIGNATED WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES MAY DETERMINE THAT A FURTHER RESPONSE IS REQUIRED. THIS WOULD CONSIST OF AN APPROPRIATELY WORDED STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING THE USE OF AN UNARMED RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FOR ESSENTIAL SURVEILLANCE OF HOSTILE KOREAN MILITARY ACTIVITY. DETAILS CONCERNING THE OPERATION, SPONSORSHIP AND BASING OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE DIVULGED. THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WILL DESIGNATE THE APPROPRIATE SPOKESMAN.

C. LOSS OF AIRCRAFT IN COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRY

1. IF A BLACK SHIELD AIRCRAFT IS LOST IN COMMUNIST BLOC TERRITORY, WHETHER FROM HOSTILE ACTION OR OTHER CAUSE, NO STATEMENT WILL BE VOLUNTEERED UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN A FULL EVALUATION BY A DESIGNATED COMMITTEE OF WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES

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OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT AND THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS.

2. NEWS MEDIA QUERIES GENERATED BY OPPOSITION STATEMENTS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE LATTER, THROUGH A PROPERLY DESIGNATED SPOKESMAN, INITIALLY WILL STATE ONLY THAT THE ALLEGED INCIDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

3. AFTER EVALUATION THE COMMITTEE WILL AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATELY WORDED STATEMENT. THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE U. S. GOVERNMENT WILL BE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE COMMITTEE WILL INITIALLY CONSIDER THE ADEQUACY OF THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED RESPONSES IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

LOSS OF AIRCRAFT IN NORTH KOREA:

IF PILOT FATE UNCERTAIN OR KNOWN DEAD: "NO COMMENT." IF PILOT ALIVE, PRODUCED AND IDENTIFIED AS CIA EMPLOYEE: "AN UNARMED RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WAS LOST DURING OPERATIONS OVER NORTH KOREA. THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

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AND NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS  
TIME."

4. DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE COMMITTEE WILL  
FURTHER CONSIDER:

A. THE NECESSITY OF ACKNOWLEDGING THE PILOT'S  
IDENTITY AND CIA AFFILIATION.

B. THE NECESSITY OF MAKING SOME STATEMENT AS  
TO THE PLACE OF MISSION ORIGIN.

C. THE NECESSITY OF MAKING SOME STATEMENT TO  
REFUTE POSSIBLE ALLEGATIONS THAT MISSION WAS INTENDED  
TO RECONNOITER COMMUNIST CHINA.

D. THE NECESSITY OF IDENTIFYING A PARTICULAR  
TYPE OF AIRCRAFT.

D. LANDING AT ALTERNATE AIR BASE

IF, DURING THE COURSE OF AN OPERATIONAL MISSION, THE  
AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO LAND AT AN ALTERNATE AIR BASE,  
IN RESPONSE TO QUERY THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE DESCRIBED AS AN

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EXPERIMENTAL TEST BED VERSION OF THE YF-12A/SR-71 FAMILY ON  
A ROUTINE FIELD TEST FLIGHT. FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE  
AIRCRAFT AND THE FIELD TEST PROGRAM ARE CLASSIFIED. FYI,  
25X1C [REDACTED] HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AN ALTERNATE LANDING  
BASE WHICH WOULD ONLY BE UTILIZED IN A DIRE EMERGENCY.

## E. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PILOT:

(1) IF THE PILOT IS FORCED DOWN IN COMMUNIST BLOC  
TERRITORY, HE WILL ADHERE TO THE PROVISIONS OF HEADQUARTERS  
DIRECTIVE 50-1055-24, DATED 27 OCTOBER 1965 WHICH STATES,  
IN ESSENCE, THAT HE WILL GIVE:

- (A) NAME
- (B) DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH
- (C) ADDRESS IN UNITED STATES
- (D) CIA AFFILIATION (CIVILIAN)

NOTE: ALL PROJECT PILOTS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY  
INDOCTRINATED IN THE PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED IN THE  
REFERENCED HEADQUARTERS DIRECTIVE, INCLUDING

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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RESISTANCE TO INTERROGATION TRAINING. THE FOREGOING INSTRUCTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION THEY HAVE UNDERGONE THROUGHOUT THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO THE PROGRAM.

25X1A

AS WELL AS HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS AT CINCPAC AND FIFTH AIR FORCE HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE BLACK SHIELD OPERATION.

ILLEGIB

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PAUL N. BACALIS  
D/SA

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